



INTER ALIA...

The Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia

February/March
Volume 1, Issue 3

A Message from the Attorney General

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Colleagues —

I have been working hard recently to inform city leaders about the great strides OAG has made in the last year, and the continued budgetary needs of our agency.

On March 7th, I testified before the Judiciary Committee about the overall performance of the OAG. This hearing was our opportunity to educate Council Member Phil Mendelson, the new chair of the Judiciary Committee, about the important work we do. I publicly applauded the efforts of the talented team of attorneys and support staff who have worked so diligently to improve the Office. I am honored to work with each of you.

On April 12th, I will again take the witness stand to request that the OAG Fiscal Year 2006 Budget be increased. While the District has more than a million dollar surplus, there are Congressional limits on increased spending with a 4.7% cap. That means our budget can only be increased by 4.7%. The good news is that the OAG still continues to efficiently operate within financial confines – largely because of all of you!

In addition to oversight and budgetary matters, the OAG is handling a number of high profile cases on behalf of the District. One of those cases is the legal and administrative challenges brought by CSX Transportation, Inc. over the District's ban on railroad shipments of hazardous materials that pass through the city. OAG has geared up for a lengthy and expensive legal battle against CSX. Attorneys in the Civil Litigation Division

are defending the city before the federal Surface Transportation Board, and before the Federal Circuit Court.

Thanks again for giving OAG your all! But work is not everything. Now that winter is in recess, I encourage each of you to enjoy the sights and sounds of spring!

— Robert J. Spagnoletti

March is Women's History Month, and Social Workers Appreciation Month! See the special highlights in this issue of *Inter Alia*



Non-Attorney
Evaluation
Period Ends
3/31/05



Cases and Legislation

The General Litigation Division is racking up key wins. In the federal employment case of *Clay v. District of Columbia*, the Court granted the District's motion for Summary Judgment. The plaintiff claimed his termination from the Public Services Commission constituted a wrongful discharge, and that his due process rights under the Fifth Amendment were violated when his position was converted from Career Service to Management Supervisory Service. The plaintiff had demanded \$1.5 million dollars in

damages. The court ruled in favor of the District on all counts.

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There was outstanding defense work by the Office of the Attorney General in *Montgomery v. District of Columbia*. The Plaintiff sued the District for \$1.5 million dollars, claiming false arrest, assault and battery and defamation. The suit arose after the plaintiff was arrested for attempted distribution of cocaine. The Court granted the District's motion to dismiss the case.

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And in *Juvenalis v. District of Columbia*. The plaintiff sought millions in his complaint and demanded \$700,000 to settle this case, alleging that a police van and two other vehicles ran him down on the night of July 13, 1998. After a four day trial, the jury returned a verdict for the District.

Each of the cases are subject to appeal. Nonetheless, we applaud the legal maneuvering of Assistant Attorneys General Michelle Klander-man, Nicole Lynch and Holly Johnson.

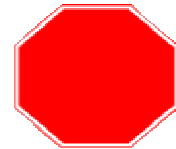
Cases and Legislation

You can read more about recent OAG wins online at www.oag.dc.gov.

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The Consumer and Trade Protection Section (CTP) is taking part in making D.C. government work. Under the guidance of Section Chief Bennett Rushkoff, the section has drafted, based on the national model, the Tobacco Settlement Model Act Amendment of 2005. The bill is expected to be introduced soon at Council.

CTP is also penning a measure to improve the oversight of non-profits. If passed, the Nonprofit Organizations Oversight Improvement Act of 2005 will amend the consumer protection law, nonprofit corporations law and charitable solicitations law.



**April 10th—April
16th:
National Crime
Victims' Rights Week**

Aa



It's not too late to volunteer to be a **study buddy** to the students at Terrell JHS. You can even "tag-team," and sign up with another co-worker and take turns going to the school to mentor the GREAT KIDS at Terrell!!

For more information, contact Traci Hughes. The invitation is open to OAG attorneys AND support staff.



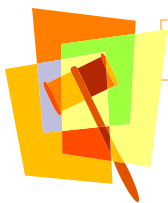
Notables

The Labor-Management Partnership is one of the Mayor's primary initiatives geared towards developing creative ways to improve District government agencies. Each year the city-wide Labor-Management Partnership Council sponsors its "Pothole Project," and awards monetary prizes to those agency partnerships which have developed meaningful projects or initiatives that (1) significantly impact the delivery of services to the citizens of the District, and (2) enhance the workplace environment for District Government employees.

After interviewing representatives from Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together (formerly Christmas in April), and OAG's Neighborhood and Victim Services Chief, Angela Harvey, the OAG Labor-Management Partnership Council has adopted as its "Pothole Project" Terrell Junior High School. Attorney General Spagnoletti renewed the partnership with Terrell Junior High School at the beginning of the school year.

The project fits well within the mission of OAG, and with the Mayor's goal of addressing critical "hot spot" areas.

Through this project, the OAG will be able to provide the students at Terrell JHS with a wealth of opportunity, and more importantly, offer the chance for OAG to make a significant difference in students' lives.



Judge Judith W. Rogers

In honor of Women's History Month, OAG is highlighting **U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Judith W. Rogers**. Before being appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in March of 1994, Judge Rogers was the first woman to be named Corporation Counsel.

Judith W. Rogers served as the Corporation Counsel from 1979 to 1983, when she was appointed by President Reagan to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, where she served, becoming Chief Judge in 1988, until President Clinton appointed her to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1994.

Prior to serving as Corporation Counsel she had been Mayor Walter E. Washington's legislative assistant for federal and District of Columbia legislation from 1972 to 1979; General Counsel to the Congressional Commission on the Organization of the District Government (the "Little Hoover Commission") from 1971-1972; an attorney at the United States Department of Justice from 1969-1971; and an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1965-1968. During a year on the west coast, 1968-69, she was a trial attorney with the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation, and taught a course on poverty law at Boalt Hall, the law school of the University of California at Berkeley.

She is a graduate of Harvard Law School and an honors graduate of Radcliffe College, and an honors member of Phi Beta Kappa. She received her Master of Laws in the Judicial Process from the University of Virginia Law School in 1988.

Around Town



It's not too late to grease the wheels and get in shape for the 2005 Multiple Sclerosis 150 Bike Tour, May 21 & 22nd. Assistant Attorney General Jack Grimaldi is leading Team OAG. To register, go to: <http://www.msandyou.org>. Send Jack Gramaldi an email once you have registered at jack.grimaldi@dc.gov.



The OAG is hosting a blood drive, with the assistance of the American Red Cross, on Thursday, April 28th. Employees can get up to 4 hours of leave time when they donate. For more information, go to www.redcross.org

Training Dates**

Apr. 4 — Intro to
PC's and Win-
dows XP

Apr. 5, 6 – Man-
aging Chaos
for Admin.
Professionals

Apr. 6—
Understanding
FMLA,
DCFMLA &
ADA

Apr. 15—
Wellness and
Work-Life Bal-
ance


Apr. 19—MS
Word 2003 I,
MS Excel
2003 I, MS
PowerPoint
2003

Apr. 20, 21—
Basic Writing
II

Apr. 27, 28, 29—
Improving
your Project
Management
Skills



April 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2  Daylight Saving Time
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Budget Over- sight Hearing	13 AG to speak to the DC Bar	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 OAG Blood Drive	29	30

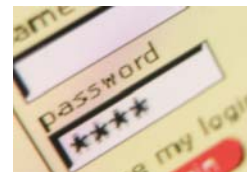
** The list of classes is not exhaustive. Please consult Paulette Andrews, Training Coordinator at (202 724-7149 for a complete list of classes offered.



Tactics to Leave Work Overload Behind:

1. Don't over-commit
2. Learn to under-promise and over-deliver
3. Calendar EVERYTHING
4. Use your computer to automate repetitious tasks
5. Tackle clusters of similar tasks each day
6. Take a break
7. Take time to plan your day

For more tips, go to:
http://www.lexisnexis.com/intheknow_slg/dayswork/



Keep your passwords safe— by Richard Lowe

1. Don't use the same password on all of your accounts
2. Choose passwords that are not easy to guess (spouse's name, pet's name, social security numbers, address)
3. AVOID common words like "PASSWORD"
4. Have a backup — write down all of your usernames and passwords in one notebook, and keep it in a safe and secure place

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The Office of the Attorney General
for the District of Columbia (OAG)
handles all suits instituted by or
against the District of Columbia.

NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS MONTH!!

March is **National Social Workers Month**, and there's one name that stands out: **Sonia D. North**. Ms. North is a social worker with Child and Family Services. She investigates abuse and neglect allegations or other risks to the safety and well-being of children in group homes, daycares, foster homes and hospitals. Ms. North graduated *Cum Laude* from Bowie State University in 1993, and received her Masters of Social Work from the University of Maryland. Thanks to Ms. North for helping to make sure the District's children are safe!



New Additions to the OAG family....

Assistant Attorney General Carl Schifferle and his wife Lisa have a bouncing baby girl — Kayla Rebecca Schifferle, born on January 30th.



Assistant Attorney General Michael McMiller and Celest Bryant are the proud parents of Grace Ayanna McMiller, Grace's special day is January 11th.